

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A machine-implemented method for managing access to data, the method comprising the  
2 steps of:  
3 detecting that a database command requires access to a particular combination of  
4 information that is located in at least two tables; and  
5 in response to the step of detecting, if the particular combination is a combination to  
6 which access is limited, rewriting said database command by creating a modified  
7 database command, based on the database command.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of detecting causes an invocation of a policy that  
2 causes a generation of a condition expression; and  
3 wherein rewriting causes the modified database command to include the condition  
4 expression.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the generation of the condition expression is performed by  
2 referencing a policy function that returns the condition expression.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the policy is not triggered by detecting that a database  
2 command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the subset of tables  
3 includes at least one table.
- 1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the detecting detects metadata includes one or more  
2 parameters that indicate which tables and which columns of the tables form the particular  
3 combination of information.

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1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular combination of information is a particular  
2 combination of columns.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the detecting includes detecting that metadata defines the  
2 particular combination of columns as a combination of columns to which access is controlled.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of registering a policy function with a  
2 policy, wherein the policy function returns a condition expression, and the modified database  
3 command is based on the condition expression and the database command.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the policy includes metadata identifying columns that are  
2 included in the particular combination of information.

3 10. A machine-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions, which when  
4 executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform a method  
5 comprising the steps of:  
6 detecting that a database command requires access to a particular combination of  
7 information that is located in at least two tables; and  
8 in response to the step of detecting, if the particular combination is a combination to which  
9 access is limited, rewriting said database command by creating a modified database  
10 command, based on the database command.

1 11. The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the step of detecting causes an  
2 invocation of a policy that causes a generation of a condition expression; and  
3 wherein rewriting causes the modified database command to include the condition  
4 expression.

1 12. The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein the generation of the condition  
2 expression is performed by referencing a policy function that returns the condition expression.

1 13. The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein the policy is not triggered by detecting  
2 that a database command requires access to a subset of tables of the at least two tables, wherein the  
3 subset of tables includes at least one table.

1 14. The machine readable medium of claim 11, wherein the detecting detects metadata includes  
2 one or more parameters that indicate which tables and which columns of the tables form the  
3 particular combination of information.

1 15. The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the particular combination of  
2 information is a particular combination of columns.

1 16. The machine readable medium of claim 15, wherein the detecting includes detecting that  
2 metadata defines the particular combination of columns as a combination of columns to which  
3 access is controlled.

1 17. The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises the step  
2 of registering a policy function with a policy, wherein the policy function returns a condition  
3 expression, and the modified database command is based on the condition expression and the  
4 database command.

1 18. The machine readable medium of claim 17, wherein the policy includes metadata  
2 identifying columns that are included in the particular combination of information.